

associating with at least one of the clients a grant permission that enables the client to give to another client a user permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities, and

creating a client profile for each of the clients, each of said client profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding client, wherein the clients comprise companies and individuals who are associated with respective companies, and the user permission is characterized as, in the case of a company, a company permission that applies to individuals associated with the company and, in the case of an individual, an individual permission that applies individually to the individual.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user permission that is granted to another client comprises a perform permission.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user permission that is granted to another client comprises a grant permission.
4. The method of claim 1 in which the digital facility comprises data.
5. The method of claim 1 in which the digital facility comprises a service.
6. The method of claim 1 in which the source comprises a web server.
7. The method of claim 1 in which the clients comprise individuals using web browsers.
8. The method of claim 1 in which the clients are employees of companies.

9. The method of claim 1 in which the electronic communication medium comprises the internet.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the client can give another client both perform permission and grant permission.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the digital facility comprises an application program, and the application defines permissions grantable to clients.

12. canceled.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user permission comprises an aggregate of permissions.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 in which the aggregate permissions of the user permission include fundamental permissions that have arguments of a common type.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 13 in which the user permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities is determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission.

16. (Twice Amended) A medium storing a software program that is capable of configuring a machine to:

make at least one digital facility available from a source to clients via an electronic communication medium,

associate with at least one of the clients an access permission that enables the client to access at least one of the digital facilities,

associate with at least one of the clients a grant permission that enables the client to give to another client a user permission with respect at least one of the digital facilities, and

create a client profile for each of the clients, each of said client profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding client, the clients comprise companies and individuals who are associated with respective companies, and the user permission is characterized as, in the case of a company, a company permission that applies to individuals associated with the company and, in the case of an individual, an individual permission that applies individually to the individual.

(Amended) Apparatus comprising

means for making at least one digital facility available from a source to users via an electronic communication medium,

means for associating with at least one of the users an access permission that enables the user to access at least one of the digital facilities,

means for associating with at least one of the users a grant permission that enables the user to give to another user a permission with respect at least one of the digital facilities, the access permission or the grant permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities is determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission, and

means for creating a user profile for each of the users, each of said user profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding user.

18. (Twice Amended) Apparatus comprising
- a source of digital facilities,
 - an electronic communication medium coupled between the source and users to make at least one of the digital facilities available to the users, and
 - storage means containing user profiles for each of the users, said user profile of each user including
 - access information regarding the power of the user to access at least one of the digital facilities and
 - grant information regarding the power of the user to grant a permission to another user with respect to at least one of the digital facilities, the grant permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission.

19. (Amended) A method comprising
- making business information of a portal-providing company available to individuals using a web server and web browsers,
 - associating with at least one of the individuals an access permission that enables the individual to access the business information,
 - associating with at least one of the individuals a grant permission that enables the individual to give to another individual a permission with respect to the business information,
 - creating a user profile for each of the individuals, each of said user profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding individual,

authorizing at least one individual to create an individual profile for another individual, and

automatically making an individual who creates an individual profile for another individual a manager of the profile of the other individual.

20. (Twice Amended) A method comprising

providing a web site,

using the web site, interacting with web browsers of users,

in response to a request from a user to the web site, determining if the user has permission to have the request served in accordance with permission information contained in a user profile of the user,

enabling, in accordance with permission information contained in a granting user's user profile, one of the users to grant to another of the users selectively either only a permission to have a particular type of request served, only a permission to grant other users the ability to grant permissions, or both,

authorizing at least one user to create a user profile for another user, and

automatically making an individual who creates a user profile for another user a manager of the profile of the other user.

21. (Twice Amended) A method comprising

maintaining a database of information that associates each user of a digital facility available from a source with permissions that define the rights of the user to access the digital facility or to grant to other users the rights with respect to the digital facility, or both,

determining the permissions by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission,

creating user profiles for each of the users in the database, each user profile containing the access and grant permission information of the corresponding user, and enabling a user who have the permission to do so, to alter the permissions associated with the user.

23. The method of claim 21 in which the permission information is stored as user profiles in the database.

24. The method of claim 21 in which the permissions comprise cascading permissions.

cont 25. The method of claim 21 in which the users belong to entities and the database also stores information about permissions that define rights of all of the users who belong to a given one of the entities.

12 26. The method of claim 21 in which the database also stores information about aggregate permissions that comprise predefined sets of individual permissions.

27. (Amended) A method comprising

making at least one digital facility available from a source to users via an electronic communication medium,

maintaining a database of user profiles that define permissions of users and companies to access the digital facility,

authorizing at least one user to create user profiles for other users, and

automatically making a user who creates a user profile for another user or for a company, a manager of the profile of the other user or the company.